Communication Services

6375. SHRIMATI KETAKAI DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleasesd to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to encourage various new communication services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

It is proposed to encourage introduction of Intelligent Network (IN) Services in the DOT's network during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Accreditation to Journalists

6376. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accredited journalists belonging to newspapers published from Assam as well as other States of North-Eastern Region;

(b) the number of applications received/cleared for accreditation to journalists working in newspapers published from these areas during each of the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing remaining cases?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) As on date, there are three accredited journalists from Assam and one from Tripura, as per details below:

Sl. No.	Name	Organisation
1.	Shri. M.N. Roy Choudhury	Assam Tribune, Guwahati.
2.	Shri. Dev Prakash	The Assam Express, Guwahati.
3.	Shri. P.B. Barthakur	The Dainik Janambhumi, Jorhat.
4.	Shri. Nikhil Bhattacharya	Dainik Sambad, Agartala.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, only 4 (four) applications have been received for accreditation at the headquarters of the Government of India on behalf of newspapers published from North-Eastern States. The status of cases as well as reason for delay, if any, are as under:

Sl. No.	Name	Organisation	Date of Receipt of Application	Status/Reason for Delay
1.	Shri. Manas Banerjee	Dainik Jugasankha, Silchar	4.1.95	The Circulation Certificate from Registrar of Newspapers for India/ Audit Bureau of Circulation is awaited.
2.	Shri. Sukanta Sarkar	Assomiya Pratidin, Guwahati	26.4.96	The case has been closed as he has left the organisation and shifted to another station.
3.	Shri. C.K. Nayak	Shillong Times, Shillong.	28.8.96	Central Press Accreditation Committee has already recommended his case for grant of accreditation in its meeting held on 26.2.97.
4.	Shri. Kalyan Barooah	The Assam Tribune, Guwahati.	28.11.96	Photocopy of appointment letter furnished by the applicant bears over-writing and he has been asked to submit original copy of appointment letter to verify his experience.